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Explosions Target Bank in Adana

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The Regional Security Office at U.S. Embassy Ankara reported the following:

On August 4, two bombs detonated ten minutes apart in Adana. The first bomb detonated at 1:10 pm local time in front of an ATM owned by Oyak Bank. The second detonated 10 minutes later in a trash can located near the same ATM. Four local police responding to the first detonation were injured in the second blast; it is believed the second detonation was specifically timed to injure first responders. Three civilians were also injured and surrounding buildings experienced minor damage. The American private sector was not targeted and did not sustain any collateral damage.

Although numerous Kurdish and left-wing terrorist groups have perpetrated low-level attacks against banks in the last year, the MLKP, a left-wing, Marxist group is thought to be responsible for this attack. The modus operandi of this attack is similar to a July 28 attack against an Oyak Bank in Izmir. In that attack, an explosive device detonated at 8:05 pm local time in front of the bank injuring two people and damaging the building and several vehicles. The Kurdistan Freedom Hawks/Falcons (TAK), a Kurdish terrorist organization, has claimed responsibility for both attacks. The validity of these claims have not been confirmed by local police. Oyak Bank is an attractive target for both leftist and Kurdish terrorist organizations in Turkey, not only because it is a commercial target but also because it is majority owned by the Turkish military.

OSAC reminds the American private sector that low-level attacks against commercial and government targets are not uncommon in Turkey. Although the American private sector was not specifically targeted in the latest attacks, American and other international businesses have been targeted with low-level explosives in the past. In addition, numerous terrorist organizations in Turkey randomly place low-level explosives in public garbage cans on busy streets. As a result, the American private sector runs the risk suffering collateral damage even when not specifically targeted.

For more information on security in Turkey, the State Department's Turkey Consular Information Sheet can be found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1046.html. For more information on terrorism in Turkey, visit OSAC's Turkey page at <http://www.osac.gov/Regions/country.cfm?country=38>.

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